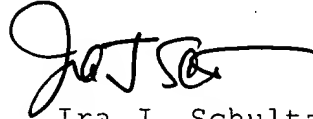


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to better define the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

1. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of acetic acid, methyl acetate or both acetic acid and methyl acetate, [in a liquid phase reaction medium] comprising a reaction selected from the group consisting of carbonylation of methanol, isomerization of methyl formate or both [processes] carbonylation of methanol and isomerization of methyl formate, said reaction being carried out in a liquid phase reaction medium in the presence of water, a solvent, a homogeneous catalyst system comprising iridium and a halogen-containing promoter, and carbon monoxide, wherein said catalyst system also comprises platinum.

2. (Twice Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 [which is a process for] wherein said reaction is the carbonylation of methanol wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $200 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the [process] reaction.

3. (Twice Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 [which is a process for] wherein said reaction is the isomerization of methyl formate wherein a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa is maintained throughout the [process] reaction.

4. (Twice Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 [which] wherein said reaction comprises a simultaneous

methanol carbonylation reaction and a methyl formate isomerization reaction, wherein said [process] reaction is carried out under a carbon monoxide partial pressure of between $0.1 \cdot 10^5$ Pa and $25 \cdot 10^5$ Pa throughout the [process] reaction.

30. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 21 which is carried out in the presence of an ester in an amount of less than 30% by weight of the reaction [mixture] medium.